

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03125 041026Z

20

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 /065 W

----- 018183

R 041000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 3125

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, QFOR, SA, IZ, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS; EUPHRATES WATER

1. IN CONTRAST WITH THE SHRILL POLEMICS EMANATING FROM DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD OVER THE EUPHRATES WATERS DISPUTE, ALL SEEMS SWEETNESS AND LIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS REFLECTED IN THE SAUDI PRESS WHICH REPORTED MAY 2 THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES FOLLOWING A NINETY-MINUTE MEETING ON THURSDAY MAY 1.
2. SAUDI OIL MINISTER YAMANI IS QUOTED AS SAYING SUBSEQUENTLY THAT THE AGREEMENT HAD DEMONSTRATED ARAB SOLIDARITY. THE AGREEMENT, HE CONTINUED, WOULD BE TO THE BENEFIT OF IRAQI FARMERS AND WAS TO BE ON THE BASIS OF A PERMANENT DIVISION OF THE WATERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BASED UPON A FIFTY-FIFTY DIVISION CALCULATED ON THE VOLUME OF WATER FLOWING INTO SYRIA FROM TURKEY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03125 041026Z

3. IRAQI IRRIGATION MINISTER MUKARRAM AL TALBANI PRAISED

KING KHALED'S MEDIATION, SAID YAMANI'S ROLE WAS OUTSTANDING, AND SAID THAT SYRIA'S UNDERSTANDING HAD HAD A CONSIDERABLE EFFECT ON THE SUCCESS OF THE TALKS.

4. THE SYRIAN MINISTER OF THE EUPHRATES DAM SUBHI KAHHALA WAS MORE CAUTIOUS IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF WHERE THINGS STAND; THE TWO SIDES ARE STILL DISCUSSING AND EXCHANGING VIEWS AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WOULD GIVE SOME RESULTS.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, YAMANI FLEW OFF THE EVENING OF MAY 2 TO ATTEND AN OAPEC OIL MINISTERS MEETING IN KUWAIT. HIS MEDIATION HAS PRESUMABLY BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL HIS RETURN. THE PRESS MAY 3 SAYS THAT A COMMUNIQUE ON THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS TO DATE WILL BE ISSUED SHORTLY.

6. COMMENT: WE WONDER IF YAMANI WENT OFF ARMED WITH SOME NEGOTIATING INDUCEMENTS FOR SYRIA AND IRAQ. THE TRADITIONS OF THE TRIBAL MEDIATOR INDICATE THAT THE JOB IS HONORABLE BUT EXPENSIVE, AND THE MEDIATOR OFTEN MUST DIG INTO HIS OWN POCKET TO STRIKE THE FAIR BALANCE BETWEEN TWO CONTENTING PARTIES. IN THE PROCESS HE OFTEN BECOMES IMPOVERISHED, AS HIS PRESTIGE AND REPUTE INCREASE. THIS WOULD HARDLY APPLY TO THE SAG, BUT SAUDIS MIGHT CONSIDER SUCCESS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE A CHEAP AT A FEW HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, IF IT WOULD RELIEVE IRAQI PRESSURE ON SYRIA AND FURTHER NORMALIZE THE SAG'S OWN RELATIONS WITH IRAQ.  
AKINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISPUTES, WATER RIGHTS, RIVERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975JIDDA03125  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750156-0472  
**From:** JIDDA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750582/aaaacxai.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SYRIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS; EUPHRATES WATER  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, SA, IZ, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006